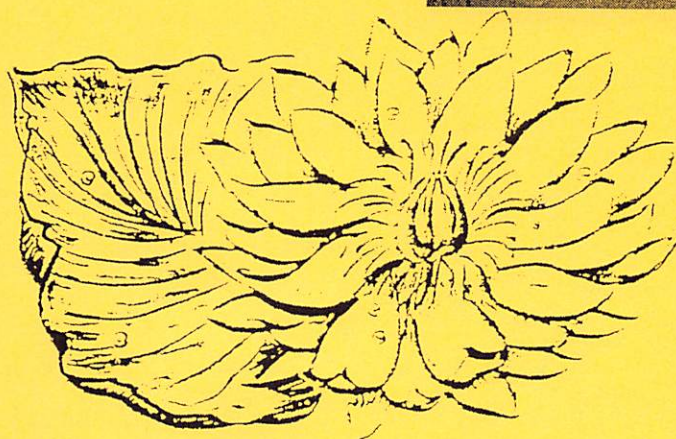
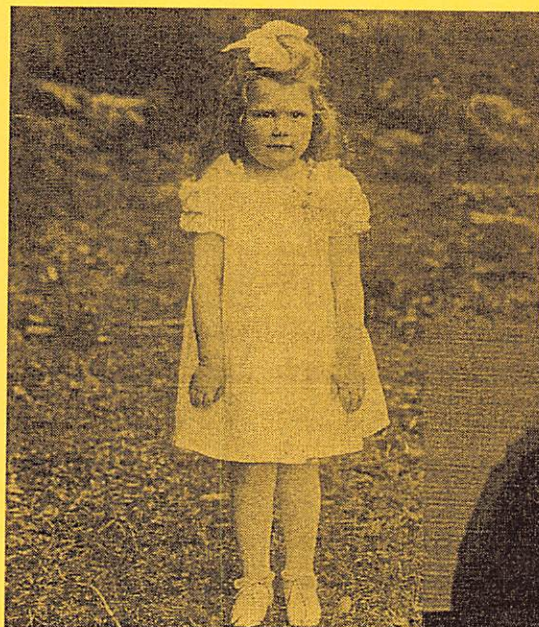


GRACE V. MCLEOD

NOVEMBER 9, 1907 - AUGUST 12, 2006







LAND OF SPIRITUAL BEINGS

I am a stranger visiting a beautiful land of spiritual beings. The dwellers in this land see only my strangeness. I forever remain just outside their doors and hearts, to use from time to time.

Unlike Milarepa, I just keep on building.

So I walk on, seeking, creeping, wondering, marveling at the magnificent vista of the Law, the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas faintly seeing beyond the beautiful land.

...Grace Mcleod

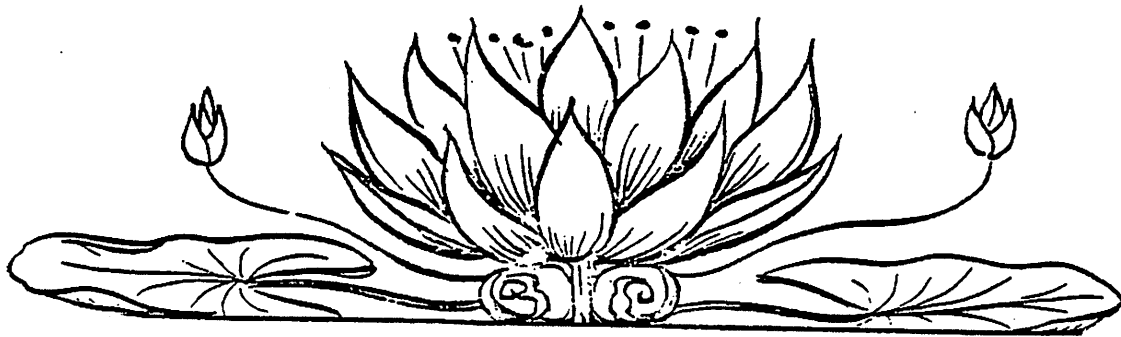
All the information in this booklet has been gathered from the personal notes of Grace McLeod, from the many talks she gave, and from publications (local newspapers and in house church newsletters and bulletins).

My mother touched the lives and hearts of many people and she was dearly loved and respected by all who knew her. She will always be with us through the loving memories we hold dear in our hearts.

Webster defines "grace" as a sense of what is right and proper; decency; thoughtfulness towards others; divine influence acting in a person to make the person pure, morally strong.

Presented for you is a brief tribute to this remarkable lady...

"AMAZING GRACE"







GRACE VIVIAN MCLEOD

A Biographical Sketch

FATHER: Delbert (Frederick) Leander Clem
MOTHER: Amelia Olivia Beale
SIBLINGS: Two Brothers, Five Sisters (all deceased)

EDUCATION:

Graduated St. Ann's Academy, (Vancouver, Canada, 1925)
Graduated Pius X School of Liturgical Music, College of the Sacred Heart,
(New York City, New York, 1927)
Graduated Holy Names Teaching College, (Seattle, Washington, 1928)
Post-graduate Northeastern University, (Boston, Massachusetts)
Post-graduate Seattle University, (Seattle, Washington)
Post-graduate University of Washington, (Seattle, Washington)

EMPLOYMENT: Primary School Teacher

MARITAL AND FAMILY BACKGROUND:

Husband: Hugh C. McLeod (died March 1978)
Stepson: Robert McLeod (southern California)
Daughter: Rosalie Jacobson (southern California)
Grandchildren: Kenneth Jacobson (southern California)
Richard Jacobson (England)
Darlene Nützmann (southern California)
Thomas Jacobson (southern California)
Great-Grandchildren: Fourteen (one lost at birth; one lost at eleven weeks)
Great-Great-Grandchildren: Two

ACTIVITIES:

Chair of Research Department, Seattle Betsuin
Sunday School Teacher, Seattle Betsuin
Taught Teachers-in-Training, Seattle, Betsuin
Taught Sangha Award Classes, Seattle Betsuin
Religious Chairman of Shoyukai, Seattle Betsuin (1960s)
President, Northwest League of Sunday School Teachers (1960s)
Superintendent, Sunday School, Seattle Betsuin
Lay speaker for Buddhist Churches of America (1978)
President, Daughters of the Pioneers (1959-1961)
Board Member, Daughters of the Pioneers
American Secretary and Fundraiser for H.H. the 16th Gyalwa Karmapa (1981)
Staged Buddhist plays at local schools (Seattle), some of which were televised
Wrote and published articles, stories and booklet (partial list noted later)
Started the Karuna Award Class, Seattle Betsuin (1971)

Studied Japanese Tea Ceremony
Studied Japanese Floral Arrangement
Studied Tai Chi
Chair of Wardrobe Department, Daughters of the Pioneers (1990-1991)

HONORS AND AWARDS:

Honored by Matrix (Seattle Chapter of Theta Sigma Phi) as Woman of Achievement
Honored by Governor Rosellini and the State Museum Board of Trustees
Honored by Daughters of the Pioneers (local Chapter) for meritorious service
Honored by Washington State Association of Pioneers
Honored by Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Honored by City of Seattle for donating 1,000 hours of service to the aged
Received National Camp Fire Award
Certificate presented by Common Schools of Washington (1931)
Certificate bestowing the name Vishaka by Bishop Shigefuji (1950)
Certificate of Appreciation, Seattle Buddhist Church Sunday School (1955)
Received confirmation from Abbot Kosho Ohtani (1959)
Received the Kyogoku Recognition Award (1960)
Certificate of Appreciation, Seattle Buddhist Church, in recognition of 13 years Service on the Sunday School Teaching Staff (1962)
Certificate of Appreciation for "ten years of devoted service to Buddhist Education in The Sunday School" (1964)
Letter of Appreciation for 25 years of distinguished volunteer service to Buddhist Education, Bishop Tsuji (1974)
Appointed by Sister Palmo to carry on the typing of sacred translations, which H.H. the 16th Karmapa blessed as *Karma Rigdol Publications* (1974)
Certificate of Appreciation for Dedicated Efforts for the Advancement of the Buddha-Dharma, Seattle Betsuin (1978)
Certificate of Appointment as "Lay Speaker for the BCA" (1978)
Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service to Youth (Karuna Award, 1977)
Letter of Appreciation for five years of research, thought and time given to make the Karuna Award a reality(1977)
Authorized by H.H. the 16th Gyalwa Karmapa to be his American Secretary and Fund-raiser for the international Kagyu Headquarters of Rumtek (1981)
Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Dedication and Devoted Service to the Seattle Betsuin (1985)
Honor Roll of Dharma School Teachers (Seattle Betsuin, 1987)
Honored at the National Conference for years of contribution of basic materials and Teaching within the jurisdiction of the BCA (1988)
Certificate of Appreciation from Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States In Recognition for generous support to disabled and hospitalized American Veterans (1993)
Numerous certificates for teaching Dharma School

TRAVELS (FOREIGN):

Bangkok, Calcutta, Canada, Darjeeling, Dharmasala, Gangtok, Hong Kong, Kathmandu, Kowloon, Kyoto, Mussorie, New Delhi, Nepal, Rumtek, Sikkim, Tibet, Thailand, Tokyo.

FORWARD

My family and I wish to thank everyone who befriended my mom throughout her lifetime. To name all of you would be a monumental, albeit impossible, task, as the list would go on and on. You know whom you are so please take pride knowing that your friendship, love and caring were deeply appreciated by all of us – especially Grace.

This booklet is a final tribute to my mom – a mini-bio of her life and accomplishments. The preparation was a true labor of love, with Mom's approval and blessing. Mom often neglected details such as dating letters and articles except to say, "Sunday" or "Labor Day" (no month or year) so some research was necessary for accuracy. In some instances strict chronological order could not be followed regarding her publications; therefore, my apologies for any discrepancies that may occur.

Some of the artwork used in this booklet may look familiar to many of you, as I took the liberty of borrowing some of my favorites from Mom's booklets.

In the spring of 1998, at the age of 90, Mom flew to southern California for a family gathering and to meet the newest member of the family – her first great-great-grandchild. She was able to travel again in the spring of 1999. During this visit we were able to fulfill a wish Mom had since 1988. Many of you may remember it being mentioned in her newsletter dated "Labor Day", which I later discovered was written in September 1988. In that newsletter she mentioned the largest Buddhist temple in the United States, which is located in Hacienda Heights, California, and stated, "I want to see it someday." On our arrival she eagerly trudged up the steep flights of steps (a laborious task, to say the least) with absolute excitement and determination. She was truly amazed at the magnificent beauty of the temple and its surroundings.

Another time, after viewing a cable television program that featured three American cathedrals, Mom phoned me and described the elegance of the Crystal Cathedral. When she asked if Garden Grove were very far away, I realized how impressed she had been with the beauty she had just seen and that she would like to see the cathedral if possible. With that in mind, I was delighted that a tour of the cathedral could be scheduled during this same visit. She found it to be another inspiring sight.

In the winter of 1999 grandson Rick flew in from England for the holidays. Mom was able to once again travel to be with the family.

Mom was blessed with a sharp wit and a keen sense of humor. She tried to keep up with the times, even if she didn't fully understand its function. A letter she sent to us in spring 2000 was signed Mom.com.

In September 2000 Grace received a letter from the Seattle Betsuin stating, "Honorary members selected by the Board of Directors on the basis of meritorious

or distinguished service to church shall be permanent members of the Seattle Buddhist Church with the full rights and privileges of regular members."

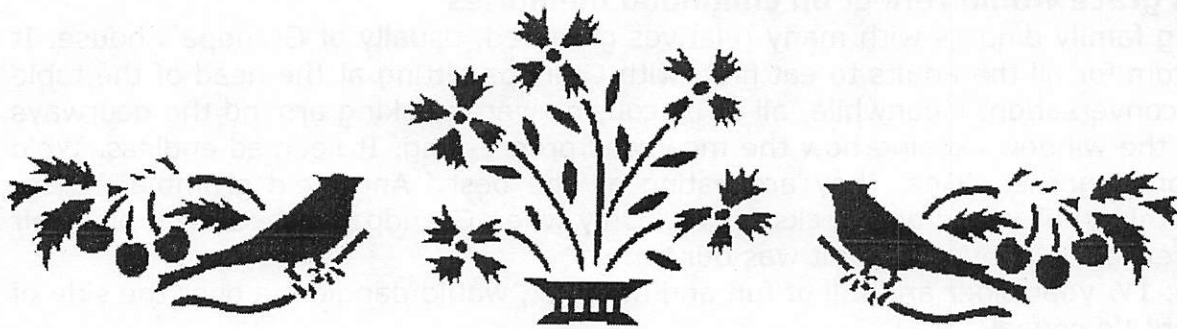
In May 2001, at the age of 93, Mom had major surgery and was confined for several weeks. After she was released from the hospital, Grandson Ken temporarily moved in with her to tend to her needs. She had not fully recuperated when I was scheduled for knee surgery. Mom, concerned as to my welfare since I live alone, insisted that Ken come down to help me during my recuperation. However, she still had not healed completely, nor was she strong enough to be left on her own. Since Ken would not leave her alone, they agreed to come down together – double-duty for Ken. Unfortunately, my surgery was postponed at the very last minute. However, their trip was not wasted – instead, a blessing in disguise, giving Ken time to do some much-needed maintenance and improvements around my house and yard. Mom thoroughly enjoyed watching all the transformations. Due to her health and age, this was Mom's last trip to my home.

Just 7 weeks shy of her 95th birthday, mom was invited to participate in a televised poetry reading along with well known people, including the Mayor's wife.

**"WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE BECOMES A MEMORY,
THE MEMORY BECOMES A TREASURE."**







Grace, who was born on November 9, 1907 at Anacortes, Washington, came from a pioneering family. Her maternal great-great-grandfather was Major Lloyd Beale, who was born and raised in the state of Virginia. He helped to defend Fort McHenry during bombardment by the British. He was an officer aboard ship with Francis Scott Key when our National Anthem was composed.

His son, her great-grandfather, Colonel Benjamin Beale, was also born and raised in Shenandoah County, Virginia. He married Anna Hereford of Shenandoah County and they had four sons. For a time he served as Military Aide to President Lincoln and in 1841 was sent to Fort Wichita Indian Territory in command of the Second United States Dragoons, taking his wife and sons with him. Later he saw action in the Mexican and subsequent Indian Wars and also commanded posts in California. In 1851 he was sent to Fort Lane, Oregon, where his wife and two of their sons joined him. Traveling with them was a cousin, Lieutenant Charles Davis, nephew of President Jefferson Davis. Colonel Benjamin Beale died at the age of 103.

One of the two sons who came to Oregon was her grandfather, Charles William Beale, who was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia in 1831. In 1952, he and Lieutenant Davis, with a party of four others, came to the Puget Sound region. For a time they settled at Port Townsend. In the winter of 1852-53, while on a flatboat trip from Port Townsend to New Whatcom (now Bellingham), he was caught in a storm and finally landed on the shores of what is now Fidalgo Island. He was the first white man to settle on the island and started the first permanent white settlement in what is now called Skagit County. He and his wife Julia, with whom he had twelve children, settled a large claim on the Island known as "Beale's Maple Grove Addition to the City of Anacortes." He built a log cabin, which stood for many years under a maple tree at 35th Street and V Avenue in Anacortes. He served as a sea captain and was a Justice of the Peace. In 1922 he received a gold and purple badge as the oldest living Skagit County pioneer. He died in 1923 at the age of 92.

One of his children was Grace's mother, Amelia Olivia Beale, who was born in Anacortes. She married Delbert (Frederick) Leander Clem of a pioneer Nova Scotia family. They had eight children, six girls and two boys. Her father owned hotels, logging camps and land in the northern territory. He was related to Honey Fitzgerald, mother of Rose Kennedy. A cousin of his was married to Edgar Allan Poe. His mother, Margaret Grimes, was related to Elizabeth Grimes who was born in Ireland and who wrote the Grimes Fairy Tales. He died aboard ship in 1927. Amelia, who was a member of the Pioneer Association of Washington and a descendant of pre-revolutionary settlers, died in 1960.

GRACE WAS THE LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF HER FAMILY

Many times grace would reflect on childhood memories

..."We had big family dinners with many relatives gathered, usually at Grandpa's house. It was the custom for all the adults to eat first, with Grandpa sitting at the head of the table and leading conversation. Meanwhile, all of us cousins were peeking around the doorways and through the windows seeing how the meal was progressing. It seemed endless. We'd whisper to one another, 'Gee, they are eating all the best.' And we'd grumble, 'There won't be anything but wings and necks for us.' Only when Grandpa pushed back his chair was the dinner officially over. Then it was our turn.

...My brother, 1½ year older and full of fun and mischief, would dangle me over the side of the porch until I'd squeal.

...My father always went to work before I was awake, but he never failed to come into my room and put a nickel (big money in those days) into my slipper. I always awakened with a smile and peeked into my slipper. When he traveled in the Northern Territories on business and we'd go to visit, I'd find the nickel on the doorstep. If we went to the Northern Territories during winter, the snow was piled high and only part of the Peace River was open. We'd use big sleds to go by river to visit someone. At night the sky was beautifully clear and a great mass of stars and we'd hear the coyotes and wolves howling

...My father taught me Irish jigs and little Irish songs such as *Oh the Badger and the Bear, the Fox and the Hare*.

...The words I dreaded most were 'Gracie, go to bed.' Sometimes I walked in the dark up the long stairway to a darkened room, afraid of what might be up there, afraid of what might be following me. Never did I dream of asking anyone to come with me with a lamp. Sometimes in autumn and winter, when relatives were gathered and having a great time visiting, I'd be forgotten. So I'd hide in the big wood box behind the kitchen stove, cozy and warm.

...Youngest of the whole tribe of brothers, sisters, and cousins, I wasn't really needed around the place to help. I'd hear my mother say, 'Gracie, run out and play.' So I did, exploring trees, eating wild berries and delicious young nettles, taking hold of limber branches and using them as a swing, discovering wild flowers, learning to run away from that ornery old goose. I didn't learn to sew or cook or anything else [until I married]. But I sure had fun and made up all sorts of stories.

...When I was about age six, I heard a strange hissing-like sound and ran to where it seemed to be coming. There I saw a most unusual contraption. It had big wheels, a horn and a seat, and it was riding down the middle of the road. It was the very first car in my hometown – a Stanley Steamer by name.

...The picture we must have made riding Old Dobbin downtown, carefully holding ten cents in our pockets as we went to see *The Perils of Pauline*.

...One night when I was 15 I was wide-awake when two Lamas came and stood beside me and discussed me. I didn't get anything of it except the number 23. (Authors note: This number remained significant throughout her life.)

...Grandpa used to tell many, many stories of his experiences crossing the land, the great hardships, and traveling with his cousin.

...Looking back through the years, the highlights and bright spots of my life have become a mixture of simple joys and a very large family, of many aunties, uncles, cousins, brothers and sisters."

One of Grace's earliest recollections was the time she and her brothers and sisters went to the beach for an afternoon swim. Some time had passed after they returned home when her mother asked, "Where's Gracie?" Realizing she had not come back with the rest of them, they all went back to the beach and found Gracie had fallen asleep on a log – which had been pulled out a great distance by the tide. Her mother rowed out in a canoe to retrieve the sleeping child, who was totally oblivious she was the reason for all the commotion.



Grace attended high school in Vancouver, Canada, graduating from St. Ann's Academy, Vancouver Canada in 1925. She also graduated from Pius X School of Liturgical Music, College of the Sacred Heart, New York City, New York in 1927. In 1928 she graduated Holy Names Teachers' College, Seattle Washington, receiving her certificate to teach in public schools. Post-graduate studies included Northeastern University (Boston, Massachusetts), where, at the invitation of an Uncle, she studies Law for one year; she studied Religions of the World, Logic, Philosophy of Education, and Children's Literature at Seattle University; at the University of Washington, she studied Child Psychology. (Authors notation: From around the age of 17 through teachers' college, Grace would sit on the edge of her chair, leaving room for her guardian angel.)

After graduating from teachers' college, Grace taught primary education. A dear friend who was ill asked Grace to take on her teaching assignment at Sacred Heart Villa (Seattle, Washington), where she taught for eleven years. While there she wrote the *Course of Study for Primary Children of Roman Catholic Private Schools*.

Grace was married to Hugh C. McLeod, owner of West Seattle Credit Exchange. He, too, was of pioneer heritage. His father, Simon Fraser McLeod, came west from Nova Scotia and married a pioneer woman, Elsie Belle Snelson. Hugh was a direct descendant of Simon Fraser who discovered the Fraser River. Hugh's father and Grace's father were friends. Hugh died in March 1978. His son Robert lives with his family in southern California. Their daughter Rosalie also lives in southern California. Rosalie and her late husband Don gave Grace four grandchildren: Kenneth (Seattle, Washington); Richard (England); Darlene Nützmann (southern California); Thomas (southern California). They blessed her with fifteen great-grandchildren. Sadly one was lost at birth; another was lost at eleven weeks. Grace also had two great-great-grandchildren.

After an intense study of comparative religions, Grace joined the Seattle Betsuin, taking refuge under Reverends Ichikawa and Masunaga. In November 1950 she took refuge under Bishop Shigefuji and was presented the Refuge Certificate and given the name Vishaka. She received confirmation from Abbot Ohtani in 1959 and later reaffirmed confirmation.

In 1950 Reverend Masunaga asked Grace to write an article for children. The next week she saw her article had been published and copies (1000) had been sent to every Jodo Shinshu temple in the United States.

Reverend Masunaga organized a small group to start preparing lessons, classes and teachers and appointed Grace editor and chair of the committee. He also asked Grace to continue writing stories and articles on Buddhist teachings for children and youth. Thus, the Research and Publication Department was set into motion.

Before the inception of the Research and Publication Department there were no formal dharma school classes and only a mere handful of teachers for the 450-500 children and youth. Grace and her committee met every Wednesday night and Sunday morning until the mid eighties, when she no longer had her own transportation, to prepare lesson plans, Courses of Study for the four divisions,

coloring books, and many booklets – at least three a year. Throughout the years many of the articles and some booklets were revised and reprinted.

Once a month Research members attended the Dharma School Board meetings and explained the lesson of the month. In this way the teachers could ask questions of the Sensei or of Grace, in his absence.

The first *Buddhist Reader* was published in fall of 1950; publication continued for 36 years. The "Reader" was written for nursery, primary, immediate and junior levels. It was decided that the teachers should also have weekly follow-up lessons on the same subject as the "Reader" of the month; Dharma Lessons were written for each division. Every month 5000 copies of the *Buddhist Reader* were sent to Buddhist temples of various sects.

Courses of Study were written for each division as an additional aid. As the numbers of dharma school pupils increased, Grace prepared the *Dharma School Teachers Handbook* to help teachers with their growing classes. This was reprinted twice, then finally revised into hard cover.

Reverend Masunaga asked Grace to write a series he named *History of Buddhism*. These were articles on the background of Buddhism, its history, and themes on the teachings. In time the series gave way and in 1964 became known as *Teen Tempest*, which was a monthly publication intended to develop Buddhist attitudes in teens. In 1969 the format was changed somewhat and the lessons became *Mandarava Blossoms*. Grace wrote many of the articles but encouraged Reverends and lay members from various Buddhist Churches to contribute articles. Eventually the articles were included in the Seattle Betsuin newsletter that was distributed to approximately 950 Jodo Shinshu temples. Publication of *Mandarava Blossoms* continued for 23 years.

In addition to her writing and involvement in Research, Grace taught the different levels of dharma school and teachers-in-training. For a year or so, she also taught the oldest dharma school class, which held its own service and discussion. Grace also taught the early Sangha Award class whose purpose was to give the Buddhist Boy Scout practical guidance in achieving the spiritual pledge made in the Scout Oath and Law, thereby developing a boy whose views and actions in life would stem from the highest of Buddhist thoughts.

Grace was given the privilege of telling stories in the Hondo to children and giving talks to the adults. One year the BCA videotaped as she talked. She attended the first BCA seminar at San Francisco and continued to attend many seminars during the years. She was also invited to give talks at temples up and down the west coast and into Canada, often being invited for return visits.

In the spring of 1971 the idea of a religious award for Camp Fire Girls of Buddhist faith was first conceived. After many months of work by Grace and the Research Department, in conjunction with the Buddhist churches of America, a course of study was developed. The Karuna Award became a National Award sanctioned by both the BCA and the Camp Fire Inc. This two-year study course, geared for older girls (6th through 12th grade), was not only academic, but encouraged the study and practice of many phases of Buddhist culture and instilled the appreciation of their cultural heritage. The selection of the name Karuna (which means Loving Kindness) was thought to reflect the feminine aspirations both as Buddhists and as Camp Fire girls. The Nation Campfire presented Grace with a beautiful certificate.

The first Karuna class was started in the fall of 1971 with fifteen girls. This was so successful that Karuna classes were expanded and included Karuna Award One, Karuna Award Two and Karuna Award Three.

For nearly forty years Grace wrote and published thousands of pages of Buddhist educational material for children and adults. She befriended some of the most noted Buddhist scholars and teachers of this century. Ninety Jodo Shinshu temples reprint her works across the United States. As stated in the *Wheel of Dharma* (March 1988), "Her works extend beyond the bounds of the local temple, the region of the Northwest District, or even the national boundaries of the BCA." Upon her retirement Reverend Unno said, "Mrs. McLeod wrote, prepared and produced English language materials on Jodo Shinshu Buddhism for thirty-seven long years. She was aided by her staff within the Research and Publication Department. However, they would agree, I believe, that she was its soul and prime mover. Always she manifested the seminal Buddhist virtue: Virya or Shojin in Japanese, the exertion of effort, the unyielding persistence and the refusal to quit, often in the face of obstacles that may have discouraged a lesser spirit."

Grace always gratefully acknowledged the cooperation, assistance and dedicated service from Research members and the support and help from the Fujinkai of the Seattle Betsuin. In her modest manner Grace said, "All members are a vital cog. The work of one overlaps into the work of another with perfect harmony. The other Research members deserve true credit for the hard work."

Grace and Hugh were studying Comparative Religions through the local Theosophical Society prior to the time Grace joined the Seattle Betsuin. It was there Grace became acquainted with Muriel Lauder Lewis, a Theosophist and the editor of the Theosophical Society's *Parents Bulletin*. Grace contributed stories and poems that were published in the booklet.

In the 1970s the Theosophical Society was active in assisting Tibetan refugees in India. Muriel was publishing a bulletin on conditions of the struggling Tibetans. She was also coordinating all her Tibetan aid work, assisted by Freda Bedi, a highly educated British woman who had married a Yogi and gone to live in India, where she taught at several Indian universities and was chosen by Nehru (a close friend) to begin a social welfare program in India. She organized numerous schools and hospitals and greatly helped the Tibetan refugees. Later Freda left the householder life and became a Buddhist nun of the Vajrayana School of thought. Her teacher was His Holiness the 16th Gyalwa Karmapa, head of the Kagyu sect of Vajrayana Buddhism. Her name became Sister Palmo (Karma Khechong Palmo) and later on she took the higher ordination, become a Gelongma. His Holiness the Karmapa asked Sister Palmo to translate some valuable Tibetan Buddhist teachings. Since Sister Palmo did not have suitable equipment for producing translations she asked Muriel if she could possibly find someone to help. Muriel asked Grace who, in turn, asked the research Department of the Seattle Betsuin if they would help type the translations – to which they kindly agreed. The first of the teachings sent for translation was on Amitabha Amitayus. Research ran some copies and Grace mailed them to Sister Palmo in Sikkim. Thus began the typing of a variety of translations. Sister Palmo organized Karma Rigdol Publications (KRP), which was blessed by His Holiness the Karmapa. Research assisted with this project for about a year but became extremely busy producing stories, helping the

Camp Fire and Boy Scout Religious Award Courses, and many other activities. It was decided the translations should become a project at Grace's home. Hugh retired in 1970, just at the right time to start helping in this project. A total of sixty-nine translations were retyped: 43 regular Vajrayana Inner teachings; 19 secret Vajrayana Inner teachings; 7 specially donated teaching by other great teachers. In 1974 Sister Palmo came to this country and to Grace's home. When Sister Palmo passed away in 1977 Grace became custodian of the translations. Under the direction of His Eminence Jamgon Kongtrul Rinpoche, KRP sent complete sets of the translated teaching to Kagyu centers throughout the world, including monasteries in Bhutan, India, Ladak and Nepal. This was accomplished by the generosity of a Buddhist in Hawaii. Rumtek requested hundreds of the teachings to be donated about the world. Grace bore all costs the first few years, then began to charge a modest fee for each of the publications and picture (28), which were done by lama artists of Rumtek Monastery. Grace retained all records and receipts of these transactions. Through KRP, Grace published Sister Palmo's translations for fifteen years.

His Holiness the Karmapa also visited this country. When Grace traveled to Portland, Oregon to hear him speak, he said to her, "Come to Rumtek. I have work for you." At the age of 71 (1981) she traveled to Rumtek. "I went before His Holiness the Karmapa and he looked at me and looked at me. I could tell he knew me through and through. Then he clapped his hands and called in eight nuns and said to them, 'This is your mother. She will build you a home'." His Holiness the Karmapa appointed Grace as his American secretary and gave her authorization to collect funds, giving her the names and addresses of his devotees around the world. Although she had no previous fundraising experience or financial expertise, Grace dedicated herself wholeheartedly to the project. Letters of solicitation were sent throughout the world; the cost of postage and publicity concerning the nunnery were donated. In just twenty months Grace collected \$21,300 for the construction of the nunnery. His Eminence Sharmapa requested she personally bring the money to Rumtek. She financed the trip on her own and left Seattle in January 1983 to turn over the money, receipts (which were recorded in triplicate) and donor names. Grace always emphasized that "not one sent was deducted from the funds collected." It was on this trip that it was necessary for Grace, at the age of 75, to travel part of the way in a helicopter in order to deliver the funds. In a newsletter in which she thanked her many Dharma friends and generous donors she said, "If it hadn't been for your devotion to His Holiness the Karmapa and his wishes, I don't know how I could have ever done anything." The Nunnery was consecrated on December 30, 1985.

A subsequent fundraising project built a school in Rumtek for about 75 impoverished children. Funds were also collected for a school for the Karma Chokor Dechen; Dharmachakra School for poor children; Emergency Fund; Leper Fund; Sponsorship of the Poor; New Delhi Monastery; Ananta Karuna; Dechen Choling Study Center. Grace's fundraising projects lasted for over two decades - 1970-1992.

In 1988 Grace, with three companions, made her fourth trip to India to meet Venerable Khandro Rinpoche to discuss and decide issues regarding the Nunnery, Ananta Karuna magazine, the leper project and the sponsorship program to help the nuns. She also visited the leper colony in Clement Town, taking food supplies

for which the patients were ever so grateful. This final trip was made possible by the generosity of a dear friend.

In March 1987, Venerable Khandro Rinpoche was a guest in Grace's home. During the visit, she and Grace conceived the idea of a magazine, *Ananta Karuna, Loving Kindness in Action*, (Ananta Karuna is Sanskrit for Endless Compassion). The magazine, under Karuna Publications, presented basic Buddhist teachings and was geared toward showing ways of genuine caring and compassion. Writers from the Research Committee and other interested parties, including international writers, contributed stories and articles for children and adults. All proceeds were used toward the Karma Chokor Dechen Nunnery and the Dharmachakra Primary School.

Being of pioneer heritage, Grace was eligible for the Daughter's of the Pioneers of Washington. She served as President from 1959 to 1961 and was a Board Member of her Chapter for many years. She also served as Chair for the Wardrobe Department. A room at Pioneer Hall was designated for the costumes, which were cataloged by dates with names of the donors. She also donated clothing, hats, dishes, and floral arrangement bowls, which remain at Pioneer Hall. As a member she remained active for many years, helping to preserve the historical past. Even at the age of 92 she attended functions from time to time. She had fond memories of many fancy teas and the fashion shows depicting the styles of the mid-to-late-1850s. She often spoke of the wonderful friendships she acquired through the years. Several years ago she was honored by the Daughters for meritorious service.

Grace was hostess to many people of notoriety before and after Hugh's death. The impressive list of visitors is too extensive to note here, but her treasured guest books are filled with comments, poetry, and signatures of so many people she had the honor to greet in her home.

Grace had many interests which included writing stories for children of various ages. Her publications are numerous (please see separate list). She studied Tea Ceremony, Japanese Flower Arrangement and Tai Chi. She also traveled extensively through the Asian countries and into Canada. She traveled to India, Thailand, Japan and Nepal three times in as many years.

"One of the nicest tea parties I attended was held in a tent. We sat on sacks of straw. The tiny stove which was used to heat the water was fueled with kerosene. It was the spirit of it that made it such a happy time." In Rajasthan, India, she saw "vast palaces, temples and museums with intricate carvings, statues beyond belief, and many exotic buildings." She saw the Potola at Lhasa, Tibet (built in the 17th century); the International Shrine (in the shape of a half-opened lotus) in New Delhi, India; the Stupa at Dodhaya, where devotees light candles all around the base. She was deeply inspired by the hundreds of Buddhists who circumambulate the Stupa. In Bangkok, Thailand she saw gorgeous temples, the famous 10-foot tall, 6-ton Golden Buddha statue, the Jade Buddha statue, and the 1,521 foot-long Reclining Buddha statue. While in Dharmasala, India she saw the monastery where the Dalai Lama conducts services; she also saw his palace.

She saw the Taj Mahal which was built in 1631 and considered it one of the most beautiful monuments in the world.

In the Old World it is uncommon for a woman to travel alone. Once at a train station the clerk noticed Grace was traveling without an escort. He asked, "How old are you?" When she answered "71" he said, "Madam, where is your son?" With a shrug of her shoulders she answered, "I have no idea." He reluctantly let her have the ticket.

One of Grace's fondest pleasures was having her morning coffee in bed while reminiscing with her family over the events in their lives. Cappuccino, blueberry muffins, apple pie and quiche were extra special treats. She especially enjoyed trips to the thrift shop, Pike Place Market, Farmer's Market and Chinatown.

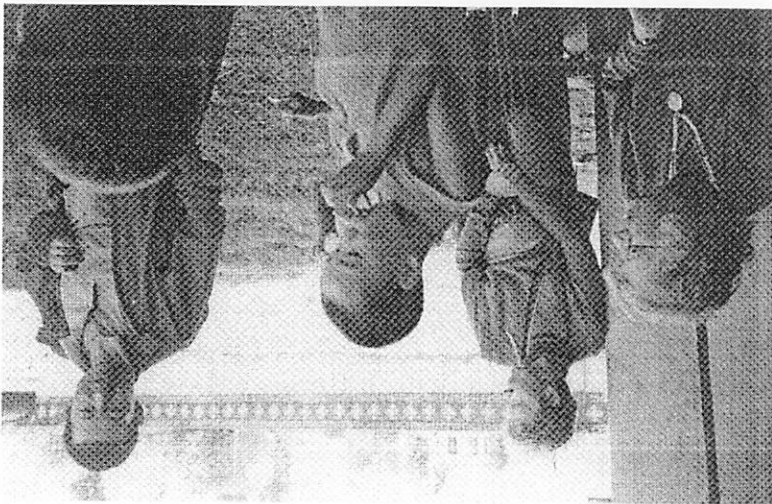
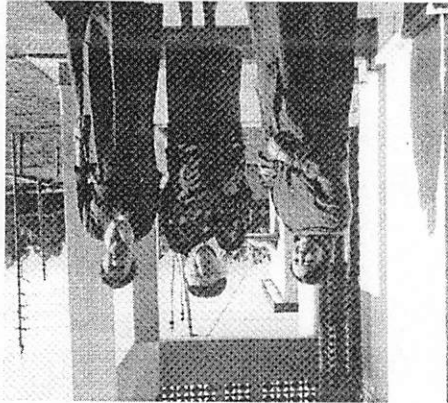
Grace admitted to not being a good cook. During her later years she devised quick-to-fix meals for herself. Recently she revealed some of her favorite recipes. "Mom's home cookin'" took on a whole new meaning with concoctions such as Peanut Butter on Tofu; Yogurt on Baked Potatoes and (are you ready for this?) Jam on Baked Potatoes.

Sometimes Grace would go off by herself for a jaunt to Chinatown. On one of these trips she was also looking for pictures of the Mahabodhisattva. She stopped at one shop and asked the proprietor if he had any such pictures. He gave this white-haired lady a couple of strange looks but started fumbling under the counter, obviously searching for something. It wasn't until she was leaving the store after paying for her purchase that she realized the reason for his curious glances. She was in a porno bookstore!

Grace's knowledge of Buddhist teachings gained the respect of many people who sought her out for private lessons. She never turned away anyone who was searching for the truth, taking on new students at the remarkable age of 92. Many times friends would gather in her home, where they would discuss the teachings until the wee hours. In a *Seattle Times* interview (November 25, 1960) Grace said (in part), "My reasons for choosing Buddhism were the compassion and tolerant nature of Buddhism, the calm and dispassionate character of Buddha. It is simple – love, wisdom and compassion."

ALWAYS UPPERMOST IN GRACE'S MIND AND HEART WAS DEVOTION TO THE MAHABODHISATTVA AND THE BODHISATTVA CONCEPT OF COMPASSION AND LIVING KINDNESS.







*His Holiness
The Gyalwa Karmapa*

His Holiness the Sixteenth Gyalwa Karmapa hereby authorizes
Mrs Grace McLeod (Karma Sonam Lhamo) of Karma Rigdol Publications
to be the American Secretary of His Holiness the Gyalwa Karmapa for
the International Kagyu Headquarters of Rumtek, Sikkim, India, a non-
profit organization.

Mrs McLeod is authorized by me to solicit funds for the proposed nunnery,
Karma Chokor Dechen to be established on land which has already been
donated near Rumtek. She is also authorized to collect funds or to find
sponsors for the monks and nuns now residing at Rumtek.

His Holiness the Gyalwa Karmapa

February 9th, 1981

The Seats of His Holiness the Gyalwa Karmapa

Dharmachakra Centre
Rumtek, Gangtok
Sikkim, India

Tashi-Chöling
Bumthang
Bhutan

Karmaraj Vihara
Swayambhunath
Kathmandu, Nepal

Cable: Dharmachakra Centre, Sikkim Phone: Gangtok 363

*His Holiness
The Gyalwa Karmapa*



DHARMA CHAKRA CENTRE
RUMTEK, GANOTOK
SIKKIM.

Most gracious Dharma benefactors,

My prayers and deepfelt thanks go out to all those who are banding together to make the building of the proposed nunnery, Karma Chokor Dechen, on the land already donated near Rumtek a reality. Your assistance to the glorious Buddha Dharma will spread to all the ten directions aiding peace and harmony throughout the world. By the construction of this nunnery, nuns of the Karma Kagyu Order will have the facilities and opportunity to pursue their studies and practices in depth, thus benefitting themselves and others.

To facilitate and advance this project as skillfully and rapidly as possible, it has been brought to my attention by Mrs. Grace McLeod (Karma Sonam Lhamo) that it would be more efficient for the donations for the nunnery to be collected in America and placed in a high interest bearing account. The funds collected would then be forwarded to Rumtek every six months as a group payment, or as needed.

Mrs. McLeod is a faithful disciple of mine for many years in whom I have the highest of trust. Therefore, I have authorized her to be in charge of the collection of these funds, and to open a bank account in America in the name of KARMA CHOKOR DECHEN. Please now forward all donations to her in this name rather than to the International Headquarters in Rumtek.

By the blessings of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas may her efforts towards the construction of this nunnery be instantly successful!

HIS HOLINESS THE 16th GYALWA KARMAPA
Rumtek, Sikkim, India,
April 27, 1981.





CAMP FIRE GIRLS, INC./1740 BROADWAY/NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019/Telephone: 212 — 581-0500

May 10, 1977

Mrs. Grace McLeod
5711 Latona Avenue, N.E.
Seattle, Washington 98105

Dear Grace,

It has been five years since the Karuna Award was first made available for Camp Fire Girls of Buddhist Faith.

Camp Fire Girls, Inc. has been and continues to be most pleased to offer the Karuna Award to girls who wish to become Bodhisattvas...those who care deeply for all.

On this occasion Camp Fire honors your own deep caring. We thank you for the research, thought and time you have given to make the Karuna Award a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hester Turner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Hester Turner
National Executive Director

HT:fs

Camp Fire Girls, Inc.



Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded to

Grace McLeod

In recognition of outstanding service to youth

Karuna Award

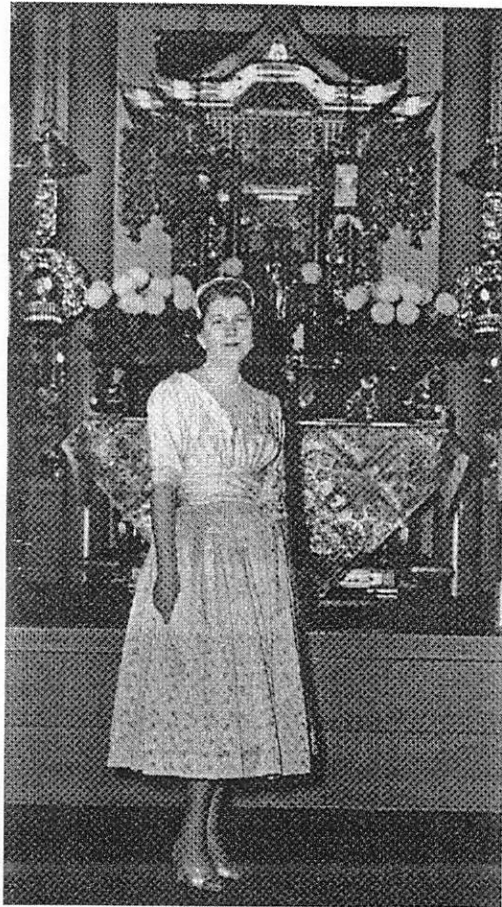
Martha C. Burk

PRESIDENT, NATIONAL COUNCIL

Hester Turner

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

May 15, 1977



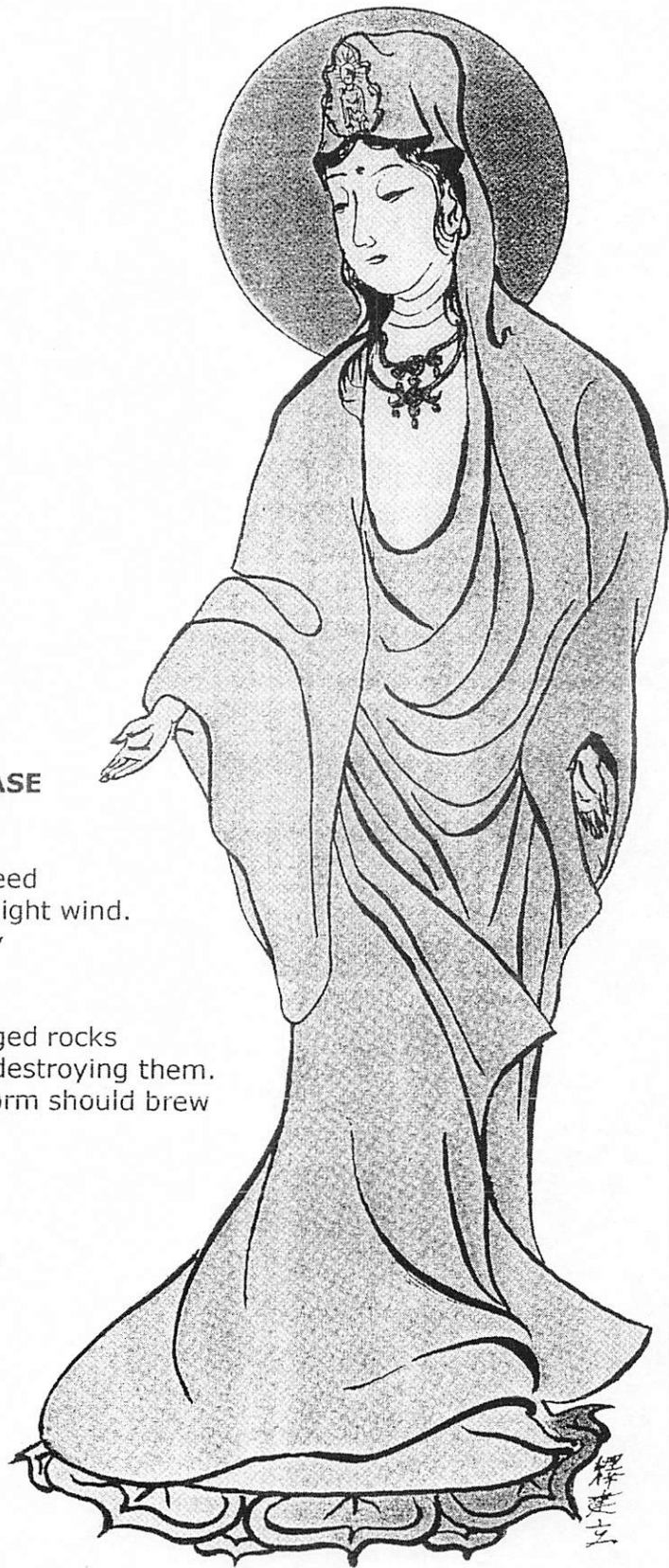
KARUNA PLEASE

My heart is like a tumbling weed
Tossed here, there, by evry slight wind.
This night so dark and stormy
reflecting my heart.

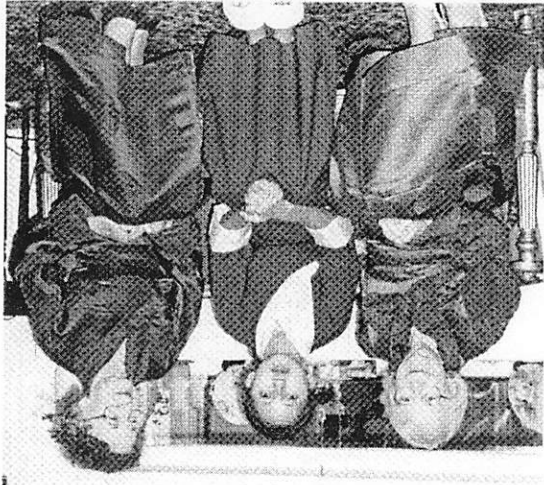
Waves pound against the jagged rocks
Hour by hour, slowly, slowly, destroying them.
The air is too quiet, as if a storm should brew
and bring release.

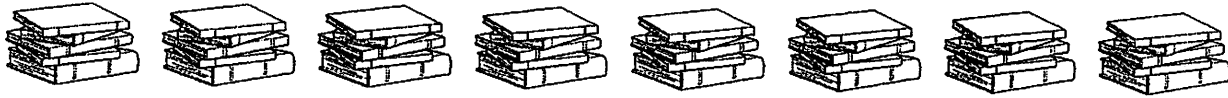
Oh, Kannon
If in the long ago ages
Thou hast known such storms
Such deadly calms
Karuna, karuna, please.

Oh, Kannon
If ever there was a time
When thy heart
sought consolation
Karuna, karuna, please.
...Grace McLeod



Left: Grace McLeod
Middle: Klara Rypace





PUBLICATIONS

ABI SAYS

Insights of Planet Earth and its many forms

ABY SAYS (Part 2)

A collection of stories

ALTAR CHART

AMIDA AND I ARE ONE

Buddhist coloring book

BABIES HERE AND THERE

BEAR (Revised in 1993 and titled A LITTLE BEAR WITH WINGS)

A delightful story about a little bear in search of himself

BUDDHIST READER

Primary, Nursery, Intermediate, Junior

BUDDHIST READER WITH DHARMA LESSONS

Combined booklets for separate groups: Primary, Intermediate, Junior

BUDDHIST SHRINE PICTURE STORY BOOK

A coloring book for the primary grade

BUTTERFLY'S SONG, A

A booklet for nursery and primary age

CARRYING THE TORCH FOR MAHAYANA BUDDHISM

Booklet for older youths and adults

CHART ON CORRECT SHRINE LAYOUT

COURAGEOUS BUDDHIST WOMEN AND RENOWNED WOMEN OF THE PAST

COURSE OF STUDY

Wisteria; Karuna Award; Sangha Award

CRYSTALS OF THE DHARMA

Illustrated stories on Buddhist teachings

DHAMMAPADA, THE

Words of the Buddha (selected verses)

DHARMA LESSONS

Lessons for Primary, Intermediate, and Junior level students

DHARMA TEACHERS' HANDBOOK

Divided into three parts: Basic Buddhism, Shin Buddhism, Teaching Methods

DHARMA TEACHERS' YEARBOOK

Lesson plans, holidays, et cetera

FLOWERS IN THE SKY

A collection of verses for the junior-age

FOR CHERRY BLOSSOM HEARTS

A collection of stories

FOR LITTLE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

FOUND, A NEW HORIZON

Life of Shinran Shonin

HISTORY OF SEATTLE BETSUIN, THE

JUNIRAI

Paraphrased for easier understanding and used at services

KARUNA AWARD COURSE OF STUDY

First developed by Research, then carried on by the BCA and made into a national course of study

KWANNON

A booklet of compassion for the junior-age

LIFE OF BUDDHA, THE

A coloring book

LIFE OF SHINRAN SHONIN

MAHABODISATTVA, THE

The Jew in the Lotus

MANDARAVA BLOSSOMS

Themes for older youths and Sunday School Teachers

MY LITTLE MAGAZINE

An annual booklet for primary and intermediate age, containing pictures, stories and puzzles

NEMBUTSU NOW

A booklet handed out at the 75th anniversary of the Seattle Betsuin

NEMBUTSU THROUGH THE AGES

On the seven patriarchs of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism

NURSERY STORIES

A booklet for children ages 3 to 5, containing pictures, stories and puzzles

ON

Selected subjects from the Buddhist Readers

ON THE DHARMA

A Buddhist dictionary

OUR CHURCH

OUR SHRINE

A booklet for adults

OUR SHRINE COLORING BOOK

PICTURES IN COLOR

A booklet of Buddhist themes

PRAISES TO AMIDA BUDDHA

A booklet on the Seven Patriarchs; a teaching and devotional booklet

REFLECTION ON JODO SHINSHU, A

From a Caucasian Standpoint (pamphlet)

SELECTIONS FROM THE DHAMMAPADA

The words of Sakyamuni Buddha

STORIES BY LHAMO*

TEACHERS GUIDE

Primary, Intermediate, Junior

TEARS O COMPASSION

For older youth and Dharma teachers; contains the entire content of Chief Sealth's deeply touching speech

TEEN TEMPEST

Articles written especially for teenagers; illustrated

TELL ME EVEN A LITTLE

A booklet of stories and adapted old legends

THAT WHICH IS MOST NEEDED IS A LOVING HEART

A booklet of selected stories and articles

WHAT BUDDHISTS BELIEVE

*Grace also wrote stories and articles under the pen names of Lhamo and Vishaka.
Pictures (8½ x 11, in color)

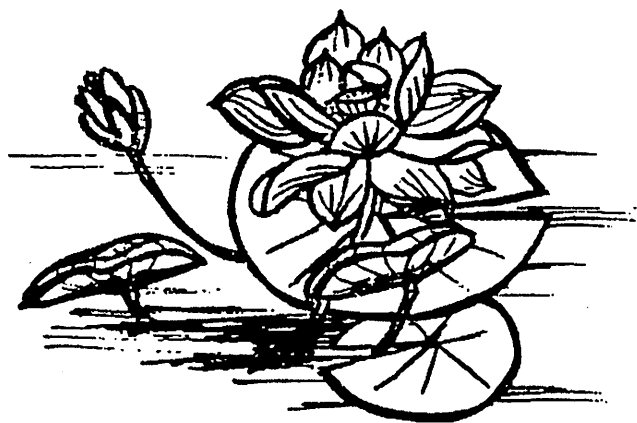
Amida Buddha
Creed, The
Golden Chain
Kwannon
Noble Eightfold Path
Sakyamuni Buddha (2 versions)
Shinran Shonin
Six Paramitas

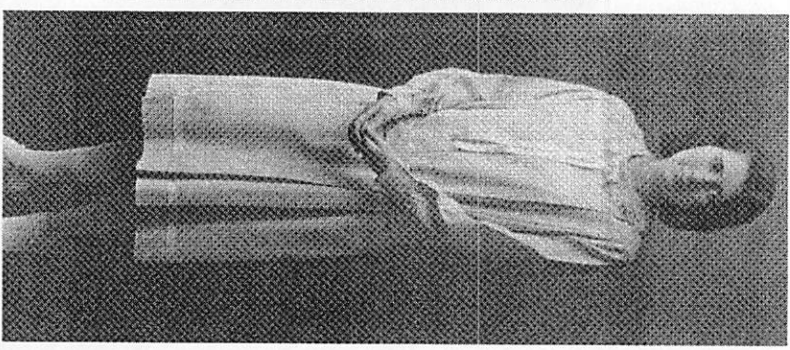
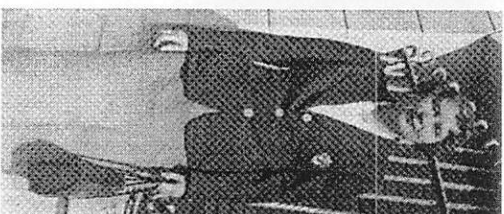
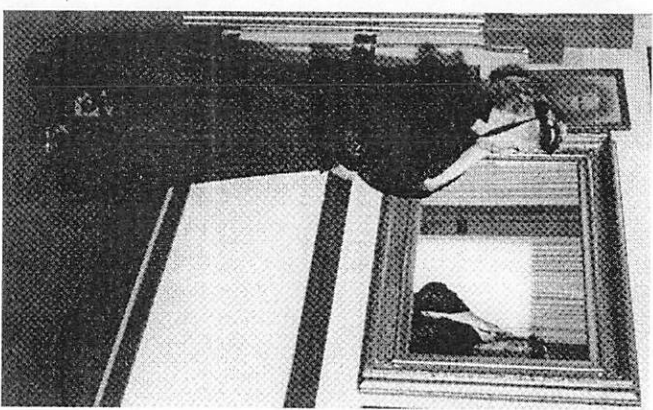
Karuna Publications, authorized by H.H. Karmapa
...Ananta Karuna

In summer 1998, Grace compiled and revised a collection of previously published material which was retyped for distribution as "Abi Says, Vol. 3". This was out in print in early Spring 1999. At this time she was in the process of writing a new story which she called "Unexpectedly".

Grace always acknowledged the cooperation and assistance from Research members, family and friends for their combined efforts in making all publications a success. Their hard work was deeply appreciated – from gathering information, typing, editing the contributions of many writers , and for all the artwork so skillfully done. She was grateful to everyone for their advice and talents.

Regretfully, Grace did not have a complete set of all her publications, admitting to be "lax in that respect."





Buddhist Churches of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Certificate of Appointment

This certificate and kesa is presented to

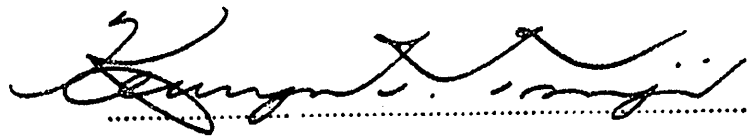
Grace McLeod

who has been appointed a Lay Speaker for the

Buddhist Churches of America

*It is the duty of the Lay Speaker to continue an ever deepening
study of the Buddha-Dharma and to assist the ministers
in the Buddhist Education program by giving valuable guidance
to the Sangha of all ages to walk the Path of Nembutsu.*

*Presented on this 1st.....day of November....1976...by the
Buddhist Churches of America at San Francisco, California*



Buddhist Churches of America

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

1993
Certificate of Appreciation

This Certificate Is Issued To

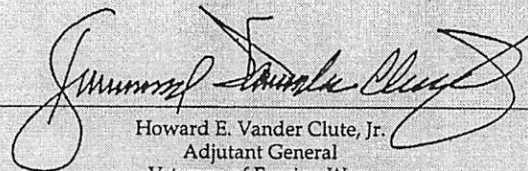
Mrs. G. Mcleod

of

Seattle, WA

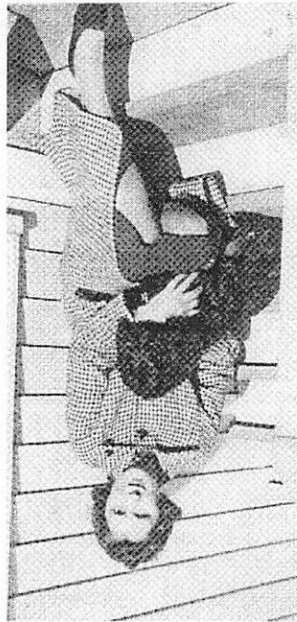
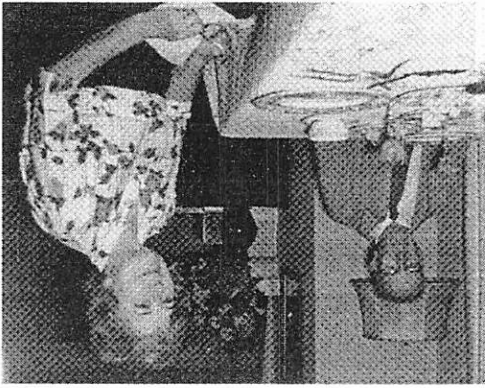
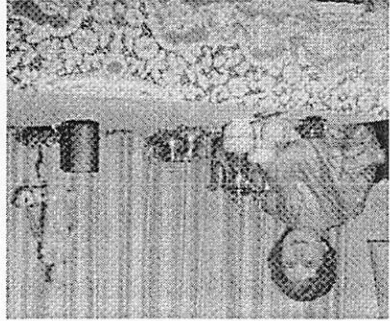
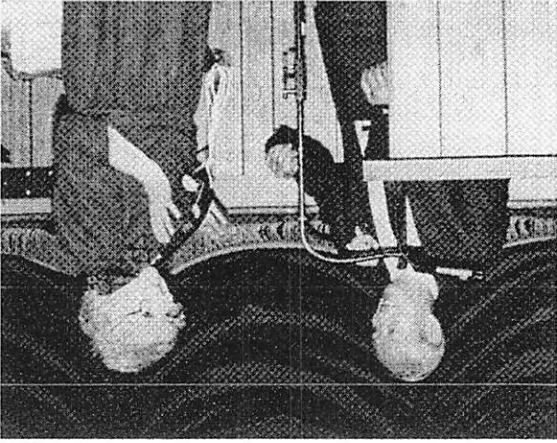
In recognition by the Veterans of Foreign Wars for generous support to
disabled and hospitalized American veterans.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars extends our deepest appreciation for your support
and sacrifices on behalf of America's war heroes.


Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General
Veterans of Foreign Wars

May 3, 1993

Date



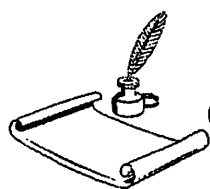


I WASHED MY HANDS THIS MORNING

I washed my hands this morning.
Oh, very clean and white.
And lent them both to Buddha
To work for Him all night.

I told my ears to listen
Quite closely all day through.
For any act of kindness
Such little hands can do.

My eyes are set to watch them
About their work or play.
To keep them out of mischief
For Buddha's sake all day.
...Grace McLeod



Plays

(Written by Grace McLeod)

Grace wrote and directed the following Buddhist plays which were performed in the Seattle Betsuin auditorium as well as at Baily Gatzert School (Seattle) where a showcase of Buddhist themes was displayed in the main hall. The plays were performed by Dharma students of the Seattle Betsuin and presented in conjunction with the Christmas pageant at the school. Grace narrated the plays for a couple of years, then Dharma students attending the school assumed the responsibility for several years.

The plays were also televised on a local Seattle station. This was at a time when it was unheard of for Buddhism to be promoted publicly – especially in conjunction with a Christmas program.

Birth of Buddha (Hanamatsuri)
Life of Buddha, featuring Bodhi Day
Life of Shinran Shonin

Grace was always most appreciative of the assistance and cooperation from the members of Research whose combined efforts made these presentations a success.





SEATTLE BETSUIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE

1427 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98144
(206) 329-0800

March 31, 1996

Mrs. Grace McLeod
5711 Latona Avenue N.E.
Seattle, Washington 98155

Dear Mrs. McLeod:

We'd like to express the heartfelt thanks of the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple for the many years you've devoted to the Research & Publications Department as you enjoy a well deserved retirement and the fruits of your labors.

As director and charter member of this department you have devoted a greater part of your life in the dissemination of Buddhist publications to Dharma School children and to others who have ordered Buddhist information materials world-wide. At the March Board of Directors meeting the directors approved your request to formally retire from the department, but we also voted to have you continue on as Director Emeritus.

We'd like to make a small presentation to you at the coming Hanamatsuri service on Sunday, April 17 at 10 a.m. to acknowledge your many years of service to the temple. Will you be able to come? Please let either of us know at your earliest convenience.

Gassho,


Rev. Yoshiaki Takemura

Rimban
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple



Sat Ichikawa
Chairman
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple

**SEATTLE BETSUIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE
1427 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SEATTLE, WA 98144 (206) 329-0800**

RELIGIOUS DEPARTMENT
RIMBAN YOSHIKI TAKEMURA
CHAIR
AKIO HOSHINO
EXECUTIVE VICE-CHAIR

April 6, 1996

Mrs. Grace McLeod
5711 Latona Ave N.E.
Seattle, WA 98105

Dear Grace,

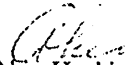
As we spoke at the recent Spring Bazaar, it's been a number of years since you turned in your resignation as chair of the Betsuin Research and Publication Department. Under your leadership, the department has established an enviable record of accomplishments. The reason we took so long to acknowledge your resignation probably was because we couldn't imagine the department without your leadership.

The Betsuin board has finally agreed to the reorganization of Research and Publication and has asked me, on behalf of the Religious Department, to let you know of our acceptance of your resignation with the condition that you remain in an advisory capacity. Both Reverend Castro and Reverend Koyama have indicated that they would like to see the department continue in its role as an educational and resource organization. With their help, we hope to form a committee to establish new goals and objectives.

Your worldwide outreach program is well known to us and BCA and, as the Religious Department, we commit ourself to support you and your program. As I requested at the bazaar, would you jot down some of your activities so that the temple members may become aware of your far-reaching help?

Finally, I want to thank you for your long time activity for the temple and I hope we can continue to work together some more. Take care.

Gassho,


Akio Hoshino



*Right seated: Ngawang &
Tom Strickland*





A KARUNA PRAYER

WE HUMBLY BOW OUR HEADS BEFORE THE ULTIMATE REALITY. THE INFINITE TRUTH OF THE UNIVERSE. THE COMPLETE LOVE, WISDOM, COMPASSION WHICH IS THE VAST POWER PERVADING ALL, KNOWN BY MANY NAMES, TOLD IN VARYING WAYS.

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE MANY BEAUTIFUL TEACHINGS WHICH SEEK TO GIVE SUFFERING BEINGS A BETTER WAY TO LIVE AND TO SEE LIFE STRAIGHT.

WE ARE THANKFUL TO THE MANY TEACHERS WHO HAVE, AND DO EVEN NOW, DEVOTE THEIR LIVES TO MAKING KNOWN A PATHWAY TO BLISS, AWAY FROM IGNORANCE, GREED, AND DELUSION.

WE WILL NOT DISCRIMINATE AND SAY THIS PATH IS BETTER THAN THAT PATH OR THAT THIS PATH IS BEST AND THAT PATH IS WRONG. THERE ARE MANY PATHS TO THE SUMMIT OF TRUTH

WE READILY ADMIT OUR FRAILTIES, OUR LACK OF COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING, WE ARE VERY SORRY, ESPECIALLY FOR OUR LACK OF CARING ABOUT OTHERS.

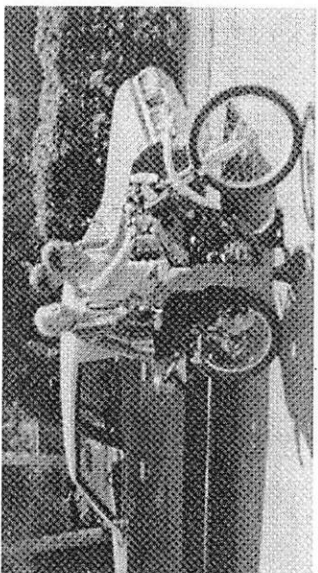
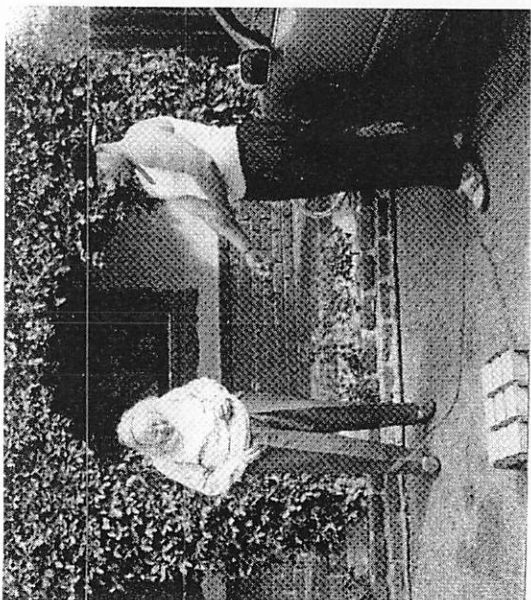
THEREFORE, WE SINCERELY ASK THAT WE MAY BE GUIDED INTO HELPING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN OURSELVES, TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITIES.

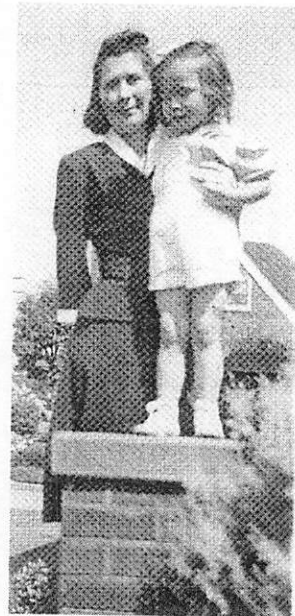
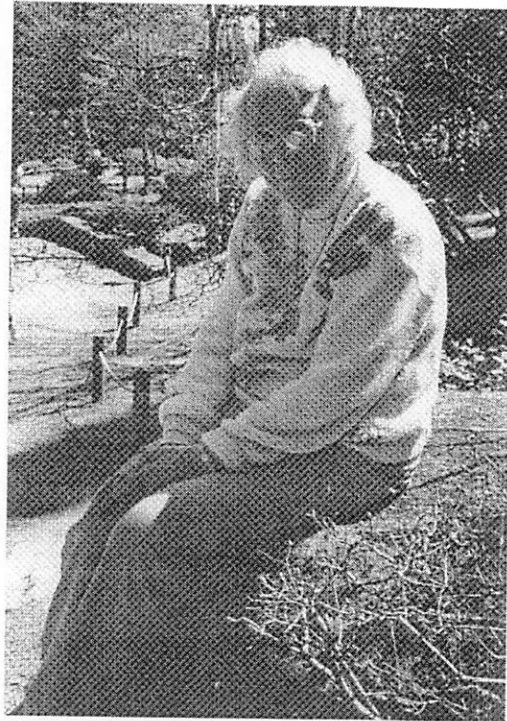
AND SO, ONCE AGAIN, WITH THANKFUL AND REVERENT HEARTS, WE BOW BEFORE THE INFINITE LIFE AND LIGHT OF THE UNIVERSE – THAT WHICH LIES WITHIN THE HEARTS OF ALLBEINGS, TO BE DISCOVERED ON DAY WITH JOY.

K A R U N A P L E A S E . . .

...Grace McLeod









His Eminence Jangsong Kengtral
Rinpoche & Grace
(3rd)

